

The Elba Clipper

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Elba, Alabama

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Ongoing project to clear Beaver Dam Creek bed takes shape in City of Elba

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The long anticipated final phase of the levee rehabilitation project in Elba continues to take shape as debris along the old Beaver Dam Creek bed from Jackson Street over to Putman Street takes shape.

Not only is the project expected to make the area more attractive with the creek bed cleaned, but officials believe it will increase the water storage capacity for run-off water from storms. The contractor will clean the creek bed area, create a 3-1 slope and grass the area where it can be kept cut and maintained.

During times when the Pea River rises above the drain pipes through the levee, the pressure of the water forces the flap gates

to close and prevents the river from entering the city. This is when the pumps in two catch basins can begin pumping the collected water over the levee and into the river.

The project covers approximately 62 acres within the creek bed. The total cost of the contract is \$707,250.

Mayor Grimes has said to expects all aspects of this project to be a plus for continued flood control in Elba. Once this current project is finished, the overall levee rehabilitation project will finally be considered complete.

All citizens encouraged to be vaccinated against influenza

In light of recent reports of severe influenza illness among children, the Alabama Department of Public Health takes this opportunity to encourage all persons to be vaccinated against influenza.

Influenza vaccine can be administered to children as young as 6 months of age.

"It is always disturbing to learn about severe cases of

influenza, particularly those among small children," said Dr. Donald E. Williamson, state health officer. "I am encouraged that vaccine supplies should be ample for all those who seek vaccination, and I encourage persons to do so."

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Elba City Schools working to improve school website but needs community help for one section in particular

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Internet website continue to be a growing source of information whether it be up-to-date happenings or a reflection upon the past, and Elba City Schools recently has been working to ensure its website meets all the needs of those searching for knowledge.

Jeff Ellis, technology coordinator for Elba City Schools, has been working to update the school system's website. His objective is to make the website user friendly and become an avenue for reaching people near and far.

"With the website we can let people know through the Internet what a great thing we have here (in Elba)," Ellis said. "Technology including the Internet is the way to the future and this website can become a good way for us to reach out to people."

Ellis said he is passionate about Elba having the best school system it can, and he believes the website can help others realize what he already knows. Also, he said he hopes the website will help draw people to Elba.

"There is no school system I know of that has the community's support like it does here in Elba," he said. "I wish I had graduated from here. There is so much tradition and pride that goes way back."

Ellis said he believes the tradition and pride Elba has long been known for can be a huge tool in promoting the school and city. He's hoping the website can become a way to introduce and remind people of that tradition and pride which he said is one of the things he loves so much about Elba.

With that in mind, Ellis said he's working to create a "pride" section to the website called, "Why We're Proud of Our School." He said this section will highlight the various programs at Elba City Schools and will serve as a reflection for past accomplishments.

Ellis said this section can be a great spot for memories of Elba athletics, band/music, clubs/organizations, the D.A.R.E. program and much more. While he's excited about its possibilities, Ellis said he definitely will need help to make it an overall success.

Officials also hope the work will help eliminate mosquito problems in the areas surrounding the creek bed.

The mayor said the city will take over the maintenance of this area after the project work has been completed.

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COMING SOON
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LIFESTYLES

60th
Wedding Anniversary

Johnson-Walden wedding planned for Saturday, January 6th

Mr. Ronnie Walden and Ms. Elvestor Johnson announce their upcoming nuptials on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 3 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, Elba, Ala. All family and friends are invited to attend.

WCC-Dothan honors former Hungarian opera star and beloved Instructor, Miklos Bencze's

By: Sally Buchanan

"This is a day I have looked forward to for quite some time because we are here to honor one of the College's most beloved and prestigious staff members of all time."

—WCC President Linda C. Young

Nearly 15 years after his death in January 1992, Miklos Bencze continues to touch the students of Wallace Community College in Dothan, Ala. The legacy of the former Hungarian opera star and beloved WCC voice instructor will live forever thanks to a \$300,000 endowment left from the final estate of his wife Ilona Szaberi Bencze, who died in January 2006.

The College formally recognized the Benczes December 7 by dedicating the state-of-the-art theater of the newly-renovated Cherry Hall in their honor.

Before his appointment to Wallace, Bencze was a world-renowned Hungarian opera star. In 1976, then-Governor George C. Wallace appointed Bencze as a guest teacher and artist-in-residence at Wallace Community College, where he served until his retirement in 1991. Bencze died the following January at the age of 81.

Young also recognized WCC drama and speech instructor Terry Schembera, who directed the evening's performance of the Broadway hit, *Butterflies are Free*.

Schembera has been with the College for 35 years, and he has produced 150 plays at the institution. "I am always impressed with the talent and the level of professionalism that Terry is able to draw from these drama students," said Young.

Great-grandparents are Jeanette Adkison of the Bethany Community, Irene Hodge of the Newell Community, and Mary Alford of Montgomery. Great-grandmother is Arkie Hodge of Elba.

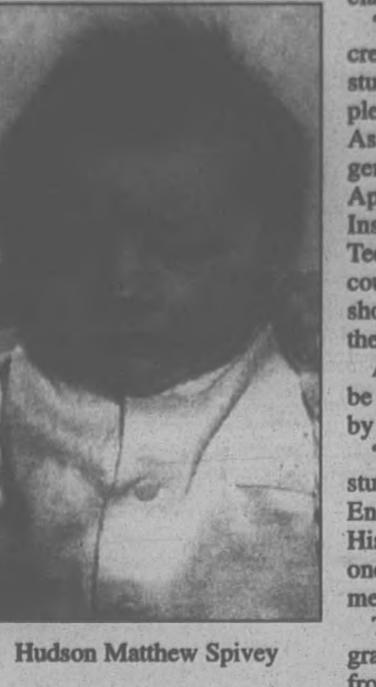
After fleeing Europe, Bencze lived in New York, performing at Carnegie Hall, International House, Musicians Club of New York, Hunter College, and on

We hope you will join us in celebrating their eternal love and devotion for the past 60 wonderful years.

New Arrival

HUDSON SPIVEY

MATTHEW



Hudson Matthew Spivey

Matt and Morgan (Hodge) Spivey announce the birth of their son, Hudson Matthew Spivey, born on Dec. 7, 2006, in Mobile, Ala.

"Initially I taught General Psychology the first semester and then the next semester we added Sociology," Franklin said.

"About a year later we developed Ethics online and I added that to my other courses."

Franklin has also seen enrollment in online courses increase steadily over the past five years.

"The first semester I taught online I had just five students," Franklin said. "Once we added more courses I started getting more and more students. We have around 250 students. We have been in online courses now."

While taking online courses is different from being in a classroom setting, the material being taught is the same as in a classroom.

"It's a different type of setting for the instructor and the student," Franklin said. "We don't get to have face-to-face interaction because everything is done through e-mail. But, all the material being taught online is exactly the same as it is in the classroom. And students and instructors have to dedicate just as much time to the online courses as they would if they were in a classroom."

While the majority of students registered for online courses are in the United States, there are a few exceptions.

Jennifer McCullough, a Stratford High School graduate from Dozier, lives in Italy with her husband, who is in the military, and is currently enrolled in online courses.

"It has been a huge help to me living overseas," McCullough said. "It makes it possible to get an education from a hometown college."

McCullough feels students who enroll for online courses can expect to get the same kind of knowledge they could from being in a classroom.

"I love taking online classes. I would much rather take online classes than sit in a classroom," McCullough said. "I had 4 online classes this past semester and the instructors were so organized that it made the class easy."

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However, everyone might not be attracted to or suited for.

"Some people are not meant to do online classes. You have to be self-motivating and have strong willpower to do your work and not procrastinate," McCullough said. "For anyone who's not able to make it to classes, then it is one of the greatest things. I absolutely love the idea of furthering my education from home, work or wherever I may be in the world."

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SCHOOLS

Teacher Spotlight



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Ashton Rodriguez
& Ciara Burrows

Annual Elba pageants set for Saturday, Jan. 27, at Elba High

by Tierney Starks

This week's Teacher Spotlight is **Mona Wise**.

Mrs. Wise is happily married to Gappa Wise. Together they have three children, Hudson, age 6, Carson and Paxton, age 3.

Mrs. Wise is a first grade teacher at Elba Elementary School. She has been teaching at Elba Elementary School for eight years.

Mrs. Wise attended Troy University. She enjoys going to the beach, being with family and friends, working in the yard and, of course, shopping.

Entry forms will be available when school resumes in

Senior Beta Club members stay busy at EHS

by Sydney Brunson

Elba high is full of many clubs for students to join, but one of the most active must be the Senior Beta Club.

Elba High's Senior Beta chapter is definitely an active one. Along with announcing the pledge and character trait daily, members are involved with many philanthropic and community projects.

During the holidays, members were found with bell in hand ringing for the Salvation Army. Along with ringing the bell, each year Senior Beta organizes

Visit the Elba City Schools website at: www.elbaed.com

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JANUARY 1, 2007

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There Will Be A Penalty Fee Plus Interest
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LBW Community College

SPRING REGISTRATION

REGULAR REGISTRATION

Greenville/Luverne
January 3, 2007 - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Andalusia/MacArthur
January 4, 2007 - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

LATE REGISTRATION
Drop/Add Period: All Campuses
January 8 - 11, 2007

CLASSES BEGIN
January 8, 2007

www.lbcc.edu

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of the things we Think, Say or Do

- First - Is it the TRUTH?
- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Compliments of
ELBA ROTARY CLUB

COMMUNITY NEWS



ELBA RESIDENT ROSA COLEMAN this year continued a tradition started many years ago by her mother. She played host Sunday, Dec. 17, for the annual family and friends Christmas dinner. The smell of good food and sound of even better fellowship filled the air inside the Elba Recreation Center building as the large group of family and friends gathered for the event. Above, WTVY Channel 4 news reporter Mike Gurspan interviews Coleman (left) regarding the Christmas dinner. She has played host since 1984 taking over after her mother has done the same for approximately 15 years prior. The additional photos shown on this page represent scenes from the annual event always thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend.



TOP MAGAZINE SELLERS (by Michael Hall)...The juniors recently completed their annual magazine sale to raise money for the Junior/Senior Prom. The Top Sellers this year are as follows (from left): Jeremy Grissett, Yousheha Terry, Brandie Summerlin, Ashton Rodriguez; and (not pictured) Brittany Holley and Will Gray. The top sellers will be on the prom committee and will oversee the planning and decorating of the prom.

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SPORTS

In Opp consolation game

Kinston Bulldogs zap Zion Chapel 70-43

The Kinston Bulldogs claimed third place honors in last week's Opp Christmas Tournament with a 70-43 final round win over the Zion Chapel Rebels, last Thursday afternoon at the Opp High School gym.

The Bulldogs held a slim 20-16 lead after one quarter of play, but outscored the Rebels 22-9 in the second quarter to open up a

42-25 halftime advantage.

Kinston's lead went to 56-37 in the third quarter, and the Bulldogs survived late rash of fouls to escape with the big 70-43 win.

Tim Donaldson scored 22 points and Matt Whigham added 16 to lead Kinston, while Zach Stephens led Zion Chapel with 17 points.

Bulldogs and Rebels are no match for 4A Bobcats

The Kinston Bulldogs and Zion Chapel Rebels both butted heads with the host Opp Bobcats last week in the opening rounds of the Opp Christmas Tournament and both dropped hard fought decisions to the 4A Bobcats.

Following are highlights of both games:

**Opp 64
Kinston 45**

The Kinston Bulldogs matched the Opp Bobcats basket-for-basket in the final two quarters last Monday night, but were unable to overcome a big halftime deficit as they opened the tournament with a 64-45 loss.

Opp came out ready to play its holiday tournament and used its combination of speed and outside shooting to jump out to a big 35-15 halftime advantage.

Kinston settled down in the third quarter and extended their lead to 53-25, and turned back a late Rebel rally to hand Zion Chapel the 70-43 setback.

Zach Stephens scored 16 points and Adam Carter added 12 to lead the Rebels, while Opp was led by Rhett Barnes with 15 points, Rodney Colston with 14, and Danyshay Edwards with 12.

Kinston Lady Bulldogs and Zion Chapel Lady Rebels get in extra holiday work at Opp tournament

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs and Zion Chapel Lady Rebels both competed last week in the Opp Christmas Tournament, with the Lady Bulldogs claiming third place honors with a 1-2 record and the Lady Rebels placing fourth with an 0-3 slate.

Following are highlights of the girls' action:

Goshen 74 Zion Chapel 22

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels tipped off the tournament last Tuesday afternoon and dropped a lopsided 74-22 decision to the Goshen Lady Eagles. The Lady Rebels trailed only 20-8 after one quarter and were within striking range at 33-13 at the half, but saw the Lady Eagles pour in 41 second half points as Goshen took command and pulled away to claim the 74-22 win.

Torie Hodge scored 9 points and Jennifer Taylor added 8 to lead Zion Chapel, while Zadous Pollard scored 22 points to lead Goshen and Whitley Sanford added 18.

Opp 43 Kinston 19

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs failed to score in the opening quarter and never recovered last Tuesday night as they fell to the Opp Lady Bobcats 43-19, in opening round action. Opp took advantage of the Lady Bulldogs' scoring woes to open up an early 8-0 advantage, and by the end of the third quarter Kinston found itself on the short end of a lopsided 40-11 score. The Lady Bulldogs did settle down late and held Opp to only 3 fourth quarter points, but it was too little, too late, as Opp easily held on to post the 43-19 win.

Kaleigh Sanders scored 10 points to lead Kinston, while Jo Rhymes scored 12 for the Lady Bobcats.

Goshen 64 Kinston 46

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs returned to the court last Wednesday afternoon and battled hard for all four quarters in a 64-46 setback to the Goshen Lady Eagles. Kinston couldn't keep pace with the speedy Lady Eagles in the opening half and trailed 39-16 at the half, then saw Goshen take complete command in the third quarter as the Lady Eagles pulled out to a 53-23 advantage. The Lady Bulldogs woke up on the offensive end of the court in the final stanza and matched their output from the initial three quarters. However, it did little but change the score as Kinston took the loss 64-46.

Kaleigh Sanders scored 24 points and Ashley McCall added 14 to lead Kinston, while Shonetta Christian scored 24 points and Zadous Pollard added 16 to lead Goshen.

Opp 63 Zion Chapel 25

The Zion Chapel Rebels were outscored in all four quarters last Wednesday night as they fell to the Opp Lady Bobcats 63-25. The Lady Rebels had no answer for the Opp attack in the opening stanza as the Lady Bobcats ran out to a 24-6 advantage, and while Zion Chapel did settle down in the second half, it made little difference as the Lady Rebels absorbed the 63-25 defeat.

Torie Hodge scored 16 points to lead Zion Chapel, while Abby Foster scored 12 points and Sharece Stephens added 11.

Kinston 43 Zion Chapel 33

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead late in the second quarter and never looked back Thursday afternoon as they rolled to a 43-33 win over the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels. The Lady Rebels took command early and led 9-6 heading into the second quarter, only to see Kinston stage a late second stanza rally to end, sheer 23-20 at the half. Kinston was never able to pull away, but the Lady Bulldogs did manage to hold on to their lead and claim the 43-33 win.

Kaleigh Sanders scored 17 points and Christie Whigham added 10 to lead Kinston, while Jennifer Taylor scored 14 points to lead Zion Chapel and Torie Hodge added 13.



Kinston's Timothy Donaldson (15) is fouled as he attempts to drive to the basket past Elba's Aaron Harrelson. The Bulldogs placed third in last week's Opp Christmas Tournament.

(Photo by Laura Baxley)

Angler Recognition Program will honor Alabama's record catches

Alabama anglers who land a "whopper" freshwater fish will soon be recognized by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources under a new program that went into effect January 1.

The Fisheries Section of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division will unveil its Angler Recognition Program, which will highlight the achievements of freshwater fishermen, as well as maintain records in three categories – the state's 43 reservoirs, 20 state public fishing lakes and private ponds.

Cook said the expanded records program will start with lake records, while private ponds will be one category while each of the 43 reservoirs and 20 state public fishing lakes will be separate. The application process for lake records is also considerably more stringent. Lake records must meet either the Master or Trophy designation for a particular body of water. Fish submitted for a lake record must be verified by a fisheries biologist and the application must be submitted for each fish.

Line-class records recognized by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) will be accepted, but an application must still be submitted for each fish.

Anglers whose applications are approved will receive certificates suitable for framing as well as decals for their boat or truck. Each angler will be recognized in the B.A.I.T. (Bass Anglers Information Team) report.

The new program also includes what bass fishermen would consider the ultimate in their sport – the Black Bass Grand Slam. "Any angler who qualifies in either the master or trophy level for all four species of black bass will receive the Black Bass Grand Slam plaque," Abernethy.

All applications must be mailed to Damon Lee Abernethy, Reservoir Management Biologist, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, 64 N. Union St., Suite 551, Montgomery, AL 36130.

All fish must be caught from Alabama waters. Anglers must possess a valid Alabama fishing license (anglers under 16 and over 65 are exempt from that rule). The application, which must be completed in full and witnessed, must be returned within 90 days of the catch along with a photograph with a side view of fish next to a ruler or yardstick. The photo must be

as clear as possible.

For the Master and Trophy certifications, an application form must be filled out and returned to Abernethy. Applications will be available online at www.outdooralabama.com, at all WFF district offices and many sporting goods stores.

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For the Master and Trophy certifications, an application form must be filled out and returned to Abernethy. Applications will be available online at www.outdooralabama.com, at all WFF district offices and many sporting goods stores.

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